

## Laboratory introduced career opportunities during new four-week work-study program

*by Barbara Baca, Directed Energy Directorate*

**KIRTLAND AFB, N.M.** — A new addition arrived at the lab in May as part of an agreement between Sandia Preparatory School and the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate.

Michelle Milne, a student from Sandia Prep and a recently announced Presidential Scholars candidate, reported for work on a new, four-week, six-hour-a-day, work-study program.

"The main objective of this agreement is to expose students to possible future career fields in the scientific and technical areas here at the laboratory," Maj. David Amdahl, an engineer in the directorate's high power microwave division, said. "We hope this program will broaden their career views and enlighten their scholastic futures."

Major Amdahl mentored Milne during her time at Kirtland. He noted that he worked with school officials to develop a student activity plan for Milne, which included an introduction to the computer environment and work in computational physics areas.

"The directorate is trying to set goals and objectives accordingly to the student's long range educational plans," Amdahl said. "The Directed Energy Directorate is striving to promote the study of science, mathematics, and engineering at all levels of education."

Michelle Milne was one of 2,600 candidates selected from nearly 3 million students in the 2000 Presidential Scholars Program. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character, involvement in community and school activities and their performance on College Board SAT or the ACT Assessment.

"Her accomplishments reflect highly upon herself and her future endeavors," Col. Douglas Beason, deputy director of the Directed Energy Directorate, said. "We are pleased to have such a high caliber student joining us here at the laboratory."

Sandia Preparatory School is a high school that serves women, minority students, and other individuals who are traditionally involved in the engineering and science professions in disproportionately low numbers.

This education partnership agreement, under the school's Senior Experience Program for 2000, permits Milne, and other students later identified, to participate as students and not employees in directed energy research and development activities. @